

**REMARKS**

Claim 7 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The basis for this rejection has been set forth in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Examiner's Office Action letter. As the Examiner will note, claim 7 has been amended in an attempt to eliminate the rejection raised by the Examiner. Thus, it is believed that this rejection has been eliminated.

Claims 1, 10 and 12 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Swiss Patent Publication No. 679,263. Also, claims 3 and 4 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Swiss Patent Publication in view of Syrmis, U.S. Patent 4,455,320. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has indicated that claims 9 and 11 have been allowed and that claims 2, 5, 6 and 8, although objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, thereby rendering claim 1 and all the claims dependent thereon, that is, claims 3-8, also allowable. In addition, claim 13 has been added to the present application, newly added claim 13 representing the combination of claim 1 (as presented in the previous Amendment), claim 3 and claim 5. In addition, claims 14-20 have been added to the present application, said newly added claims corresponding to claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 but dependent from newly added claim 13. Thus, all of the claims of the present application are either dependent from claim 1, which represents a combination of claims 1 and 2, or claim 13 which represents the combination of claims 1, 3 and 5. Thus, it is now presumed that the present application is in condition for allowance and accordingly reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/644,024  
Amendment dated January 3, 2007  
After Final Office Action of October 2, 2006

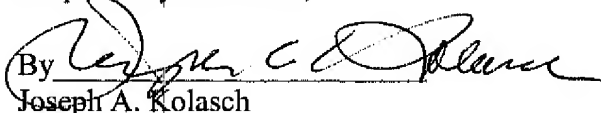
Docket No.: 0142-0442P

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch Reg. No. 22,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joseph A. Kolasch

Registration No.: 22,463

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant